

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ACDA-12 /081 W
-----095905 131233Z /41

O 131305Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1664
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, UR, US
SUBJECT: PRAVDA ARTICLE ATTACKS PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON
SOVIET RACISM

SUMMARY. PRAVDA ARTICLE CONTINUES SOVIET ATTACK ON PRESIDENT'S SPOKANE REMARKS ABOUT SOVIET RACIAL ATTITUDES. PRAVDA APPROACH IS TO DETAIL RECENT US HISTORY OF RACIAL VIOLENCE, DESCRIBE "WORSENERED" ECONOMIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL CONDITIONS OF US MINORITIES, AND ATTACK PRESIDENT PERSONALLY, IF INDIRECTLY, BY REFERRING TO RACIAL INCIDENTS AT HIS CHURCH IN PLAINS. END SUMMARY.

1. B. STRELNIKOV ARTICLE IN MAY 13 PRAVDA CONTINUES CURRENT SOVIET MEDIA THEME OF STRIKING BACK AT PRESIDENT'S SPOKANE REMARKS ON SOVIET RACISM. STRELNIKOV BEGINS AND ENDS HIS ARTICLE WITH REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT'S CHURCH IN PLAINS, WHEN HE SAYS RACISTS DID NOT ALLOW A NEGRO MINISTER
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INTO THE CHURCH AND WERE ALMOST READY TO BEAT HIM UNMERCIFULLY. AND LAST JULY, WRITES STRELNIKOV, THE KKK HELD A RALLY AROUND THE SAME CHURCH. THIS IS LEARNING TO LIVE "SIDE BY SIDE", HE CONCLUDES SARCASTICALLY.

2. BULK OF STRELNIKOV'S ARTICLE IS DEVOTED TO LENGTHY ACCOUNT OF INCIDENTS OF VIOLENT RACISM IN RECENT AMERICAN

HISTORY BEGINNING WITH BIRMINGHAM CHURCH BOMBING, GOING THROUGH BILL CONNOR'S BRUTAL SUPPRESSION OF BLACK DEMONSTRATION, AND CULMINATING IN KILLING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING AND THE SUBSEQUENT RIOTS IN AMERICAN CITIES.

3. STRELNIKOV THEN PICKS UP HIS SECOND THEME THAT WHILE OUTWARD FORMS OF RACISM HAVE CHANGED FOR BETTER IN US SOCIETY, THE ACTUAL CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR AMERICAN BLACKS HAVE WORSENERED. THE FACTS AND THE RACIST BACKGROUND OF UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG BLACKS IS EXPLORED AND PERSONALITIES AS DIVERSE AS DICK GREGORY, THE PRESIDENT, GUS HALL, AND CARL ROWAN ARE QUOTED ON THE SUBJECT. "IT IS . NOT POSSIBLE," WRITES STRELNIKOV, "TO SOLVE THE NEGRO PROBLEM IN A CAPITALIST SOCIETY WHERE RACISM IS A COMPONENT PART OF THE IDEOLOGY OF THE RULING CLASS." "RACISM, ORDINARY RACISM, IS A CAUSE FOR THE SUFFERING AND THE UNHAPPINESS OF MILLIONS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS--NEGROS, INDIANS, MEXICANS, AND PUERTO RICANS," HE ADDS.

4. STRELNIKOV SAYS THAT ALL THESE FACTS OF LIFE ABOUT RACISM IN AMERICA ARE KNOWN TO THE WHITE HOUSE, YET DESPITE THIS, THE PRESIDENT'S "SUNDAY SERMON" IN SPOKANE PRAISED US RACIAL ATTITUDES AND CRITICIZED THOSE IN THE SOVIET UNION. "BUT," HE SAYS, "THE FACTS LOOK DIFFERENT AND THEY ARE A STUBBORN THING." TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, PRESS COMMENTS, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW10597
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780203-0909
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780561/aaaabzqp.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 301a969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2698994
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRAVDA ARTICLE ATTACKS PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON SOVIET RACISM SUMMARY. PRAVDA ARTICLE CONTINUES SOVIET ATTACK O
TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, UR, US, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/301a969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014